

Hello everyone!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a great break and got a little rest and relaxation. We have an exciting semester ahead of us.

Our first class will be Tuesday, January 22 from 4:00-7:15 in Education Center 113.

As discussed in our last class, for this semester, there are two required books and one software requirement:

I. We are using the text by Victoria Bernhardt *Using Data to Improve Student Learning*. They are currently in stock at the UMF bookstore. (If you purchase your book through another source, make sure it is the correct edition and includes the companion CD). In order to make this relevant to you, please purchase the one for your school level:

a. Bernhardt, L., Victoria (2003). *Using Data to Improve Student Learning in Elementary Schools*. Larchmont, NY: Eye On Education. ISBN 193055660-8.

b. Bernhardt, L., Victoria (2004). *Using Data to Improve Student Learning in Middle Schools*. Larchmont, NY: Eye On Education. ISBN 193055687-X.

c. Bernhardt, L., Victoria (2005). *Using Data to Improve Student Learning in High Schools*. Larchmont, NY: Eye On Education. ISBN 159667004-5.

d. Bernhardt, L., Victoria (2006). *Using Data to Improve Student Learning in School Districts*. Larchmont, NY: Eye On Education. ISBN 15966777029-0. [Note: this book is not available through UMF Bookstore but is available through many online sources.]

II. Remember that you are doing “Book Talks” where each of you are on a team that will read the same book and then share the heart of that book with your peers in class. These teams and the books will be picked on the first day. The books are not available through the UMF bookstore and you will need to purchase them on your own (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.), once you know your team and your team’s book.

III. We need to all have the same software to successfully complete the major projects for this class. Last semester everyone had either Office 2008 for Mac or Office 2007 for Windows (or higher). We will use these again this semester -- both Word and Excel. Make sure this software is installed on your laptop. If you have a new laptop (or your old one got re-imaged), you need to install the software (or get it installed if you don't have admin privileges). We won't be using the software in the first class, but your computer must be ready by the third class.

The following four assignments are due at the first class:

1. Read the course syllabus: <http://edu584spring2013.wikispaces.com/>
2. Read chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the *Using Data to Improve Student Learning* book for your level. Be prepared to share a list of the topics/items from the chapters that interested you and things that concerned you.
3. Start thinking about the five categories for the Book Talk: 21st Century Thinking, Change Process, Data-Informed Decision Making, Professional Learning Communities, and Technology Literacy. Which ones appeal to you and/or pique your interest? We will

be asking you on the first day to create teams based on interest, however, not everyone can be on the same team so it's best if you come with two or three interests. Once teams are selected, we will have actual copies of the book choices for your team to peruse.

4. Find your philosophy paper that you wrote for EDU 580 class. Bring a digital copy of your paper to the first class (have it on your hard drive or on a jump drive).

If you have any questions, please feel free to email either of us.

Looking forward to a great semester,  
Dr. Grace & Dr. Theresa